

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 PRS-01

IGA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-01 H-01

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O 051030Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2950

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPHIL

HQ 13TH AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5864

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, SREF, RP, US

SUBJECT: REFUGEES AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: A. MANILA 5843

B. STATE 104061

1. GOP HELD CABINET LEVEL MEETING AFTERNOON MAY 5 ON SUBJECT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES AND INDOCHINESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT ARRIVING AT US BASES IN PHILIPPINES. RESULTS OF MEETING WERE CONVEYED TO ME BY GENERAL ROMULO AND APPEAR TO MEET OUR MOST PRESSING INTERESTS IN THESE VARIOUS PROBLEMS.

2. VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: GOP HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT AS REFUGEES THOSE VIETNAMESE FAMILIES WHICH WERE BROUGHT TO CLARK BY FILIPINO SPONSORS BUT HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOP AS PHILIPPINE RESPONSIBILITY. THIS GROUP  
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NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 160. AT SAME TIME GOP HAS ASKED IF

WE WOULD ACCEPT INTO REFUGEE STREAM 35 RPT 35 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD A PANAMANIAN FLAG SHIP CARRYING USAID CARGO WHICH IS CURRENTLY ANCHORED OUTSIDE BREAKWATER IN MANILA HARBOR. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT THESE PERSONS, GOP REQUESTS US TO INFORM THEM TO THIS EFFECT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND "THEY WILL SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO."

3. INDOCHINESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT: GOP HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OUR NOTE (REF A) ASSERTING TITLE TO INDOCHINESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT ARRIVING IN PHILIPPINES. AT SAME TIME GOP HAS RECEIVED "NOTE" FROM PRG CLAIMING SAME EQUIPMENT. GOP WILL SEND US AND PRG IDENTICAL NOTES SUGGESTING THAT WE DECIDE THIS ISSUE BETWEEN US AND THAT THEY WILL KEEP HANDS OFF. THIS TACTIC APPEARS TO PERMIT US TO ASSERT AND RETAIN TITLE TO EQUIPMENT WITHOUT HINDRANCE FROM GOP.

4. CAMBODIAN REFUGEES: GOP HAS AGREED TO EXTEND ITS "GUIDELINES" TO ACCEPT CAMBODIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES ARRIVING IMMINENTLY UPON FOUR CAMBODIAN VESSELS BOUND FOR SUBIC. I INFORMED ROMULO THAT WE HAD NO RPT NO AUTHORITY TO PROCESS THESE REFUGEES ONWARD TO GUAM BUT EXPECTED TO HAVE A NEW PAROLE ARRANGEMENT FOR THEM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS (REF B). ON BASIS THIS STATEMENT ROMULO HAS AGREED THAT CAMBODIANS CAN BE SEGREGATED AND HELD AT GRANDE ISLAND (SUBIC) WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WILL BE MOVED ONWARD TOWARD GUAM IN FEW DAYS TIME. THIS ARRANGMENT PERMITS US TO ASSERT TITLE TO CAMBODIAN VESSELS AND IMPOUND THEM AT SUBIC. THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN NO RPT NO "NOTE" FROM THE GRUNK ON THESE VESSELS IN A MANNER WHICH PARALLELS PRG NOTE ON VIETNAMESE EQUIPMENT.

5. THIS SERIES OF ARRANGEMENTS APPEARS TO TIDY UP OUR IMMEDIATE OUTSTANDING REFUGEE PROBLEMS, BUT LEAVES DANGLING QUESTION OF THOSE 35 REFUGEES CURRENTLY ABOARD PANAMIAN SHIP IN MANILA. PLEASE INSTRUCT SOONEST WHAT ADVICE WE MAY GIVE GOP CONCERNING THESE PERSONS. IF WASHINGTON MAKES NEGATIVE DECISION CONCERNING ACCEPTING THEM INTO GUAM PROCESSING STREAM, PLEASE PROVIDE EXACT WORDING FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY TO USE IN NOTE VERBALE EXPLAINING THIS POSITION TO GOP. SINCE REFUGEES ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD ABOARD VESSEL AND VESSEL IS OUTSIDE QUARANTINE AREA, REQUEST RESPONSE THIS MATTER BY OPENING OF BUSINESS TUESDAY MAY 6.

6. IT WILL BE SEEN FROM OUR HANDLING OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEE ISSUE THAT I HAVE USED ASSURANCES GIVEN ME

IN REF B WHICH PLACES US UNDER MORAL OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT  
FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT OF THESE PERSONS  
AS SOON AS NEW PAROLE AUTHORITY BECOMES EFFECTIVE. GOP  
WILL DOUBTLESS INTERPRET THIS AS A BINDING OBLIGATION  
WHICH I EXPECT WASHINGTON TO HONOR. IF WASHINGTON EXPECTS  
ANY COMPLICATIONS WHICH MAY DERAIL THIS ARRANGMENT,  
ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE SINCE THESE CAMBODIAN SHIPS ARE  
EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN SUBIC ON MAY 6.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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